GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3238
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
SPOTTING TALENT FROM RURAL AREAS
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar;Singh Shri Sitaram

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch a new scheme for talent hunt in the field of sports at rural level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up branches of the Sports Authority of India in each district of every State;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to set up Sports hostels in rural areas so as to attract, encourage and promote traditional sports/games;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): In recognition of the shortage of sports facilities in rural areas and the consequent lack of access to organized sports and games for a large section of children, adolescents and the youth, consideration is being given in the Ministry to the promotion of a Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders, including Panchayati Raj Institutions, youth organizations, education institutions etc. The proposal will be finalised after necessary consultations with the Ministries and organizations concerned, as also the State Governments. Thereafter, approval of the competent authority will be sought.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g): Under the Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme of the Sports Authority of India, infrastructure, including hostels, is being established in far flung rural, tribal and coastal areas to tap and nurture the sports talent in such areas. Moreover, under the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme and the SAI Training Centre (STC) Scheme of the Sports Authority of India, facilities are being provided for coaching and training in respect of traditional sports and games such as Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, etc. In addition, there is also provision for adoption/registration of akharas and schools where such facilities are provided.